

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite sheet, comprising:

- a fabric that is at least partially embedded in a polymeric sheet, with the fabric including warp yarns extending in a longitudinal direction and weft yarns extending in a lateral direction that is at least about perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, wherein:
 - the polymeric sheet includes:
 - longitudinally extending edges that are laterally spaced apart from one another,
 - outer, longitudinally extending, first and second surfaces that extend laterally between, and are contiguous with, the edges, and
 - a thickness that is defined between, and substantially perpendicular to, the first and second surfaces;
 - all of the warp yarns of the composite sheet and all of the weft yarns of the composite sheet:
 - are positioned between the first and second surfaces, and
 - are not exposed at either of the first and second surfaces;
 - pluralities of longitudinally extending first and second areas of the polymeric sheet are arranged in an alternating, laterally extending series such that each of the first areas is contiguous with at least one of the second areas,
 - for each of the first areas:
 - at least a plurality of the weft yarns extend laterally through the first area, and
 - at least a plurality of the warp yarns extend longitudinally through the first area;
 - and
 - for each of the second areas:
 - none of the warp yarns of the composite sheet are located in the second area;
 - at least a plurality of the weft yarns extend laterally through the second area;
 - the second area has a laterally extending width and includes all of the thickness of the polymeric sheet that is within the width, and
 - the width of the second area is at least about 0.3 inches;

wherein at least one of the longitudinally extending edges of the composite sheet is a cut edge formed by cutting a wider composite sheet along a longitudinal cut line located in one of the second areas of the sheet such that the weft yarns extend all the way to the cut edge and terminate at the cut edge.

2. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein the yarns are respectively interlaced with one another such that the fabric is woven.

3. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein all of the weft yarns of the composite sheet extend into each of the first and second areas.

4. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein each first area includes at least three of the warp yarns.

5. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein at least a majority of the weft yarns of the composite sheet are monofilament yarns.

6. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein none of the warp yarns of the composite sheet are exposed at either of the edges.

7. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 6, wherein none of the warp yarns of the composite sheet is closer than about 0.15 inches from either of the edges.

8. (Original) A composite sheet according to claim 1, wherein the composite sheet is in the form of an endless belt.

9. (Original) An endless belt according to claim 8, wherein all of the warp yarns of the endless belt are fully encapsulated in the polymeric sheet.

10. (Original) An endless belt according to claim 8, wherein the endless belt extends around a plurality of rollers that carry the belt and are rotatably mounted to a frame.

11-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) A belt for conveying food, comprising:

a composite sheet having opposite ends, the composite sheet being formed into a loop and the opposite ends being spliced together to form the belt as an endless loop, the belt having opposite longitudinally extending edges;

the composite sheet being cut from a wider composite sheet along at least one longitudinally extending cut line that forms at least one of the longitudinally extending edges of the belt as a cut edge;

the composite sheet comprising a fabric completely encapsulated in a polymeric material, the polymeric material forming opposite major surfaces of the belt, a thickness of the belt being defined between the opposite major surfaces;

the fabric comprising a plurality of warp yarns extending in a length direction parallel to the opposite longitudinally extending edges, and a plurality of weft yarns extending in a width direction of the belt between the opposite longitudinally extending edges and being spaced apart in the length direction;

the warp yarns being arranged in a plurality of groups spaced apart in the width direction, each group comprising a plurality of warp yarns spaced apart in the width direction with a spacing less than a spacing between the groups, such that regions between the groups of warp yarns are free of warp yarns; and

the cut edge being located in one of the regions free of warp yarns, and the weft yarns extending to the cut edge and terminating at the cut edge.

43. (New) The belt for conveying food of claim 42, wherein the ends of the weft yarns at the cut edge are melted along with the polymeric material of the composite sheet at the cut edge and then re-solidified such that an intimate melt-sealed interface exists between the ends of the weft yarns and the polymeric material at the cut edge.

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44. (New) The belt for conveying food of claim 42, wherein the weft yarns are uniformly spaced apart in the length direction.

45. (New) The belt for conveying food of claim 44, wherein there are about 10 weft yarns per inch in the length direction.

46. (New) The belt for conveying food of claim 42, wherein the warp yarns are multifilament yarns and the weft yarns are monofilament yarns.

47. (New) The belt for conveying food of claim 46, wherein the warp yarns have a denier of about 500 to about 2000, and the weft yarns have a denier of about 560.